

Boney M's Bobby Farrell
dies in Russia pg 2

A Year End Checklist for
Small Businesses pg 11

December is AIDS
awareness month



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Chamber of Commerce ends their business year



Minister Hooyboer Winklaar welcomed by Director Lorraine de Sousa and KVK board president



Board president Sheela van Veen

Management, staff and board members of Aruba's Chamber of Commerce (Kamer van Koophandel-KvK) welcomed the Minister of Economic and

Social Affairs and Culture, Michelle Hooyboer and partners for an informal and festive farewell to the 2010 business year at their premises on Tuesday, December 28. Also present were students and instructors of a program conducted by the KvK at Aruba's EPI aimed at encouraging and improving individual entrepreneurs and small businesses. Laureen Dix of the KvK executive staff declared there was great interest and it was quite successful.

It is the practice of the KvK to present a summary of commercial growth on Aruba at the end of each year, "but this year we decided to share our end of the year celebration with our partners and media," explained Director Lorraine de Sousa.

Continued on page 2

A positive year behind us and a positive year ahead according to Minister Otmar Oduber

The year 2010 is almost behind us, and I am happy to say that together with my team, the various departments under my watch, my ministerial colleagues, strategic partners, the Aruba Parliament, and certainly the people of Aruba and the guidance of our Creator, we were able to make some important strides.

During this passing year, we achieved various goals in the area of tourism. KLM has returned to Aruba, Carnival Cruise Lines have returned to our harbor after an absence of more than 3 years. We created the Tourism Council from which entity I will receive important counsel with respect to tourism. With the support of Parliament we were able to increase the room tax with 3.5%, and create the Aruba Tourism Marketing Fund (ATMF) as well as the Tourism Product Enhancement Fund (TPEF), each with their respective budgets and management.

Aruba recorded history in our tourism industry with the unprecedented partnership with the private sector regarding the ATMF, while the TPEF is already making a difference with respect to the projects designed to improve our tourism product.

Another milestone was the reopening of the Aruban Resort, which now bares the name of Tropicana. In addition to these, the process has begun to convert the defunct Bushiri Hotel and ruins into a 5-star property.

This year we also introduced a new logo and image for Aruba, one that can be used internationally which is contributing to a more effective marketing of our island.

In 2010 the world became aware of Aruba in a new context, one of glamour and cinema graphic excellence during the first Aruba International Film Festival which in-



Minister of Labor, Transport and Tourism Otmar Oduber

cluded the visit of the famed movie personality, Richard Gere as our distinguished host.

In this same vein I signed another novel for Aruba, one that would make Aruba glow in the world of fashion, the Aruba In Style Fashion event scheduled to take place in 2011.

One of the biggest accomplishments for me as individual and as politician in the area of tourism is the privatization of the Aruba Tourism Association (ATA), converting this organization into a sui-generis legal structure. Many ministers of government of previous administrations attempted this, but finally at the beginning of 2011 this will become a reality with the support of Parliament.

With respect to public transport, 2010 was also a fruitful year for our island. The Reina Beatrix Airport will remain in the hands of our people. Despite the fact that our predecessors had opened the door for the Schiphol Group or others to purchase shares of our airport, and to allocate a seat on the Board of Directors of the airport to an expatriate; this year we signed an amend-

ment with Schiphol Group to eliminate those two issues. This ensures that the airport will remain totally the property of the people. In addition, with pride we succeeded in nominating an Aruban professional to work as counterpart alongside the airport director.

The process to modernize the air traffic control is in motion with the air traffic controllers involved in this process. The regulation and legalization of our public transport is receiving the necessary attention. Certain agreements have been reached between our taxi chauffeurs, small bus drivers and tour operators. Our intention is to ensure that both those providing the public transport service and those receiving the service will be satisfied. In order to accomplish this, it was important to be able to have control of our public transport and I am satisfied that this is marching forward very well. DOPV (the organization responsible for the supervision of our public transport) is under leadership of a management team and is functioning optimally.

Continued on page 5



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MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

Boney M's Bobby Farrell dies in Russia

SAINT PETERSBURG, Russia (AFP) - Bobby Farrell, singer and dancer with 1970's disco group Boney M, died early yesterday in a hotel room in Saint Petersburg, where he had been performing, city officials said. He was 61.

The Saint Petersburg investigative committee of prosecutors said the Aruban-born Dutch singer was found dead in his bed by a staffer at the city's Ambassador hotel.

"There was no sign of violent death," a committee source said. "The investigation continues."

Saint Petersburg news site

Fontanka.ru reported that Farrell had come to the Russian city on Wednesday take part in a corporate event but reported feeling ill during his performance.

A security source told the news site that Farrell's body was found at 9:00 am (0600 GMT). A post-mortem was being carried out.

Farrell was the sole male member of Boney M, which won global fame with catchy disco numbers like "Daddy Cool," "Belfast," "Ma Baker," "Sunny" and "Rasputin,"-- many of which won gold and platinum discs.

Chamber of Commerce ends ...

Continued from page 1



Students for the Entrepreneurs program

Presenting their annual address was outgoing President of the Board, Sheela van Veen. KvK executives judge the global economic attitude is showing a somewhat more positive outlook at the end of 2010 than the previous year. However, it continues to be a slow recovery; using the U.S. (which most directly affects Aruba's tourism and economy) as a benchmark, there is an increase of the GDP of 2.6 %, but unemployment remained at 9.8%.

European nations present a mixed panorama, with strong development in Germany simultaneously contrasted by profound economic difficulties for Ireland, Portugal, Greece and possibly Spain. Emerging as powerful economies affecting commerce around the globe are China, India and Brazil, which are enjoying a proliferation of global markets and an unprecedented increase in their middle classes. In the opinion of the KvK, this is largely due to the continued worldwide demand for oil, despite an ambivalent market in the U.S. and Europe. The price of crude oil continues to increase, and is expected to reach \$100 a barrel in early 2011, which will contribute to the fragility of the recovering economy.

Aruba, in particular, has seen a slight economic improvement in the past year over 2009. There was a definitive increase in arrivals and the

tourism industry, resulting in greater consumer spending among the resident population. There was a negligible increase in new businesses registered with the KvK, from 1138 in 2009 to 1155 at the end of 2010. These numbers are down from 2007 and 2008. KvK feels they must consider this indicative of decline, as they would expect the number of new registrations to be augmented annually by about 200.

KvK was also quite preoccupied with the financial status and actions of a new government that had taken office in the final months of 2009. During 2010, a number of taxes were reduced; most notably the BBO, an accumulated sales tax which was reduced by half, from 3% to 1.5%. It is felt the reopening of Valero will offset this loss of income for the government as well as a new government bond issue valued at 324 million Aruban florins. However, KvK foresees 2011 as a difficult year economically, with the possibility of some new taxes as the government is operating with a large deficit leftover from the previous administration, with no immediate, viable solution on the horizon.

KvK analysis for the year 2011 projects that Aruba must focus on a more modern economy based on international commerce and attracting tourism from alternative

sources such as Europe and Latin America, particularly Brazil. The diversification and expansion of Aruba's economic resources is essential for continued growth and stability in the coming years.

To maintain a climate of investment and entrepreneurial optimism, the KvK believes it is essential to maintain a formal Social Dialog, as was launched in 2010. The encouragement of new and diverse aspects of business is needed to stimulate commerce and industry. They also suggest the fiscal regimen needs drastic revitalization; and Aruba must closely watch the actions of competitors in the region.

Following this serious note, the festivities continued with entertainment by Grupo Betico. With the advent of the New Year, a new board will be installed, which Ms. Van Veen continuing in some capacity.

by Rosalie Klein

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New Year's Eve December 31	New Year's Day January 1	Sunday January 2
10:00am - 6:00pm	Closed	5:00pm - 10:00pm

Editorial

It is customary at the ending of a year to sit back and reflect on the past year. We take a look back at what went wrong, what did not go, and what could have been done better, and where we utterly failed. We also, reminisce on those things that went splendid and brought much joy and contentment to us. Entrepreneurs look back and count their financial losses and gains.

This reflection helps to give us perspective for the year ahead, and teaches us what not to do and what must be done for success in the coming year. As an island, we should also engage in this type of exercise... look back, assess where we are today and plan on where we want to go in the coming year.

Aruba has made some gigantic steps forward in 2010; this is obvious to any objective observer. Early in the year we thought that KLM flights to Aruba would remain a thing of the past, that Carnival Cruises would never return to our shores, and that the oil refinery would remain closed indefinitely; but as we approach 2011 we know that we will again enjoy the prestige and financial benefits of KLM, the happy sounds of hundreds of tourists parading our shopping areas from Carnival Cruise visitors, and the sight of steam flowing from the chimneys of the Valero Oil refinery. Our reflections on these are devoid of any political connotation. These are simply the realities

we will enjoy into the coming year. These provide us with a positive outlook for what we believe will otherwise still be a most difficult year. Despite the positive things mentioned earlier, 2011 will be a difficult year for Aruba and for the rest of the world. Global warming continues to threaten us all, the ever growing possibility of war in the Middle East and in other parts of the world, the uncertainty of affordable gasoline, the impending dictatorships even in our own region are just some of the things that concern us and that threaten to make 2011 a difficult year.

Aruba will have to brace herself for these and other challenges in 2011. We cannot take a nonchalant attitude to our problems. We must determine to lay our political, and ethnic differences aside and determine to work together as one people for the wellbeing of all who live on Aruban soil. We have what it takes to unite and move ahead despite all odds.

Aruba needs a new trust in God Who is the only source for stability, security and genuine peace of mind and peace among the nations.

The Morning News rejoices in what we envision for our newspaper in 2011. Growth and wider acceptance is just some of what we envision for 2011 for this daily newspaper.

We are immensely grateful for all of you who are on this journey of success with us.

Department for Technical Inspections closed first half of January

ORANJESTAD — Management of the Department for Technical Inspections (DTI) announced their offices situated in Pos Chiquito will be closed to the public from January 10 to 14, 2011. This is due to maintenance work on the auto inspection equipments, introducing security measures for clients on the premises and

reviews to update procedures.

The maintenance work is necessary for the department to give optimal service in the year 2011.

Management of the Department for Technical Inspection apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause and wishes the entire Aruban community a prosperous 2011.



Pointers to Ponder

Tony A.D. Green www.people-self-development.com

Four Questions to Ask Before Entering 2011

I am not too interested in the so-called New Year's resolutions. One of the reasons for my disinterest in them is because most of us never get passed January 12th with our resolutions. -Within 12 days of the new year we have already long forgotten those resolutions we made on New Year's Eve. I think it is safe to say that a good 90% of all people really have good intentions and are sincere in making those resolutions, but never really follow through on them.

I want us today to instead consider four questions that we should ask ourselves in all sincerity. Four questions, that when asked correctly and applied can do so much more for us than those lofty resolutions we are used to making.

Question number one: What do I really want in 2011?

You say, wow, that's a loaded question. It is, and will be the foundation upon which you can build your life in 2011. Please, do not let it be money. Money will come automatically if you desire the best and if you have the right perspective. Money in and of itself can be very illusive and if you base your life on getting money, it will rob you of the freedom to be who you were designed to be, and of the joy of hard work and creativity.

Please, don't say..."I want love." As enchanting as love is, to desire it above all else is futile, because love always happens to him/her who gives love! This means you don't need to want love, just give love and amazingly, it will find you and you will have all the love you can handle.

What do I really want.... peace of mind, good health, and food on my table every day, positive influence on other people, peace with God? Answer this question for yourself and build that strong foundation for a remarkable 2011.

your aging mother or father. Being occupied with these people may be inevitable, and of course, very noble. Nonetheless, is there some time left for you to take care of you? If you are to have a year of satisfaction and true contentment, you will need to schedule time for you. You must answer the question carefully and truthfully and whatever the answer, do whatever it takes to have a positive response.

Question number two: Am I comfortable with what I am doing?

The idea is, is this what I want to continue doing into 2011? Some people are in jobs not suited to them and they are simply frustrated and unhappy at what they do everyday. If this is you, you want to ask yourself the question I just raised. Do you want to continue doing this in 2011 or are you intent on finding something different to do? Since we spend as much as 8! hours on our jobs every day, it is extremely important that we are satisfied with our daily occupation! I know, finding another job is virtually impossible for most people, maybe for you too. So, you may have to do a revolutionary mind adjustment to continue in a job you would rather not have, if that is your case, and if you couldn't find other employment. But, whatever it takes you must be comfortable with your vocation if you are to have a successful, satisfying, productive 2011.

Question number three: Am I doing enough for myself?

Many people are moving into a new year extremely occupied with the lives and business of other people. Maybe it's your child or children, or

Question number four: What really makes me tick?

In other words, what motivates me, what gets me up every morning, what makes me be the person I am, what moves me? You can be just about anything you always wanted to be. But, you must realize that attaining something that may seem very difficult is going to demand every ounce of your energy and drive. There will be absolutely no place for laziness or procrastination! Never forget that self-improvement is not just about the physical or philosophical change you have to make, but it's something that you really want. Take some time and examine yourself, find out what makes you tick. If you need to make changes, make them. If you need help making the changes, seek help from a professional who can guide you. Read a good book. And, by all means, include God in your plans, He is the best guide there is, I guarantee it.

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Top 10 New Year's Resolutions...

New Year's Eve has always been a time for looking back to the past, and more importantly, forward to the coming year. It's a time to reflect on the changes we want (or

need) to make and resolve to follow through on those changes.

1. Spend More Time with Family & Friends
2. Fit in Fitness

3. Tame the Bulge
4. Quit Smoking
5. Enjoy Life More

6. Quit Drinking
7. Get Out of Debt
8. Learn Something

- New
9. Help Others
10. Get Organized

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- Diasabra 1 di Januari 2011 pa 8:30pm
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A positive year behind us and a positive year ahead

Continued from page 1

The Labor department is also going through changes at this moment and those changes will become evident in 2011. Currently, the government, business owners and representatives of our employees are in discussion on how to change and modernize various labor laws. Several of these changes have already been agreed upon, such as the elimination of the 'on call' job situation and the protection of employees in the event of bankruptcy or the change of business ownership.

I am delighted because of the reopening of the Enseñanza Pa Empleo program (Employment Preparation Program) offering the possibility for job improvement to many of our people.

The Department of Agriculture, Fishery and Livestock also experienced big changes in 2010. After being an abandoned department for some time, my goal was to revive this department and that is what is happening right now. DLVV is now much more accessible to all those who make their living from this sector of our economy. Parliament recently passed a new law with respect to import duty for those registered with Santa Rosa who make their living in fishery, agriculture or livestock. Henceforth, all those active in this sector can now import, duty free, all material pertaining to their profession. There are several projects in the pipeline for this sector in 2011, and the new year looks even

more promising for this sector.

With the presentation of the Soul Beach Festival in the Joe Laveist Sports Park, San Nicolaas also received special attention. I can also say that this event will return to San Nicolaas in 2011. The creation of the Caribbean Festival, in San Nicolaas gives me great pride. This event will focus on the history and culture of San Nicolaas and will contribute to the development of San Nicolaas in a whole different way for the 50-some nationalities living together in this part of the island. We will use this event to show our visitors something of our culture and history. The year 2011 will be an important year for San Nicolaas, which is finally getting the attention it deserves.

All of the cited accomplishments are not personal accomplishments, but rather accomplishments of every one of you living on our soil. I want to thank our Creator, without

Whom none of this could have been achieved. The year 2010 was a positive year and my sincere wish is that 2011 would be an even better year for each of you. May God pour out His blessing on every home in Aruba and continue to illumi-



nate us to achieve even more positive things for the benefit of all our people.

Have a happy New Year filled with blessing.

Otmar E. Oduber
Minister of Tourism,
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December 31

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Sci-Tech

Android apps growing by the second, over 2.5 billion downloads



In the apps numbers game, Google's (GOOG) Android is gaining on Apple's (AAPL) iPhone. The two-year-old Android Market now is offering more than 200,000 apps and games for download, Softpedia reports. This compares with more than 300,000 for

the Apple operating system.

"Apple's App Store for the iPhone, iPod and iPad might still be on the first position, with over 300k application available for download for its users, but the Android Market is still going up, and it even seems to be accelerating," said Softpedia.

Android apps are being downloaded at a clip of 103 downloads per second, with total downloads passing 2.5 billion.

It's estimated that Android could overtake Apple in 2014.

Google didn't confirm the numbers. And Softpedia warned: "The actual numbers might be a little different than what AndroLib.com shows."

US study finds Neanderthals ate their veggies

WASHINGTON (AFP) – A US study found that Neanderthals, prehistoric cousins of humans, ate grains and vegetables as well as meat, cooking them over fire in the same way homo sapiens did.

The new research published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) challenges a prevailing theory that Neanderthals' over reliance on meat contributed to their extinction around 30,000 years ago.

Researchers found grains from numerous plants, including a type of wild grass, as well as traces of roots and tubers, trapped in plaque buildup on fossilized Neanderthal teeth unearthed in northern Europe and Iraq.

Many of the particles "had

undergone physical changes that matched experimentally-cooked starch grains, suggesting that Neanderthals controlled fire much like early modern humans," PNAS said in a statement.

Stone artifacts have not provided evidence that Neanderthals used tools to grind plants, suggesting they did not practice agriculture, but the new research indicates they cooked and prepared plants for eating, it said.

The squat, low-browed Neanderthals lived in parts of Europe, Central Asia and the Middle East for around 170,000 years but all evidence of them disappears some 28,000 years ago, their last known refuge being Gibraltar.



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Forecasters keep eye on looming 'Solar Max'

PARIS, France (AFP) – The coming year will be an important one for space weather as the Sun pulls out of a trough of low activity and heads into a long-awaited and possibly destructive period of turbulence.

Many people may be surprised to learn that the Sun, rather than burn with faultless consistency, goes through moments of calm and tempest.

But two centuries of observing sunspots -- dark, relatively cool marks on the solar face linked to mighty magnetic forces -- have revealed that our star follows a roughly 11-year cycle of behaviour.

The latest cycle began in 1996 and for reasons which are unclear has taken longer than expected to end.

"The latest prediction

looks at around midway 2013 as being the maximum phase of the solar cycle," said Joe Kunches of the Space Weather Prediction Center at the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

But there is a prolonged period of high activity, "more like a season, lasting about two and a half years," either side of the peak, he cautioned.

At its angriest, the Sun can vomit forth tides of electromagnetic radiation and charged matter known as coronal mass ejections, or CMEs.

This shock wave may take several days to reach Earth. When it arrives, it compresses the planet's protective magnetic field, releasing energy visible in high latitudes as shimmering auroras -- the famous Northern Lights and Southern Lights.



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Health & Living

10 Diet Tips for the New Year

1. Notice the internal obstacles that keep you from meeting your health goals and work to overcome them. Reach for the Oreos whenever you have a fight with your partner? Work out your emotional stress constructively rather than through food.

2. Add slices of fresh cucumber and fresh mint springs to regular water for a clean and refreshing twist on plain old H2O.

3. Don't wait for May to get in shape. Make small health goals all year-round so that you're always striving to look, be and feel your best, 365 days a year.



4. Use chopped mushrooms in place of ground meat or poultry to save calories, reduce your carbon footprint and give your nutrition a healthy boost.

5. Reduce your environmental impact: Skip the treadmill and hit the trails for your cardio workout.

6. If you don't already have a strength-training workout routine, commit to one this New Year. If you one already, amp it up and make new muscle-defining goals. Jennifer Aniston's arms anyone?

7. Side-lined by an injury? Ask your physical therapist about testing out a new low-impact workout like yoga or Pilates to maintain your shape and your mood.

8. Use caution with diet supplements, as many of them have been linked to side effects and potentially dangerous ingredients.

9. Investigate what external obstacles are keeping you from achieving your health goals and work around them. Always work late? Get up early to exercise.

10. Add more fiber to your diet and eat your sushi with fiber-packed brown rice rather than plain white.

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New Years is a time that kids love and mothers dread. Fireworks are great fun, but must be handled cautiously; each year Aruba's emergency room treats patients for lost fingers and burns resulting from ill use of fireworks.

Even sparklers can reach a temperature of 1800 degree Fahrenheit, so don't assume

these are "safe."

Always read cautionary material and instructions. When igniting fireworks, be sure to place them on a level surface in a stable launcher, clear of any combustible material and not aimed at any buildings. Never hold lit fireworks; they may be defective and explode in your hand.

Always keep a bucket of water or a hose handy; do not try to relight a firework that has malfunctioned, but hose it down thoroughly. Do not look down a tube of a large "batata" that has not launched after a reasonable time; you might find out it is only delayed, as did one man two years ago, resulting in serious facial burns

and eye damage. Do not reuse fireworks that have been lying around since the previous year; make sure to use up your supply and throw away any leftover.

In Aruba they are a tradition, as no one can imagine ending the old year without a pagara; so be wise, and start the New Year right.



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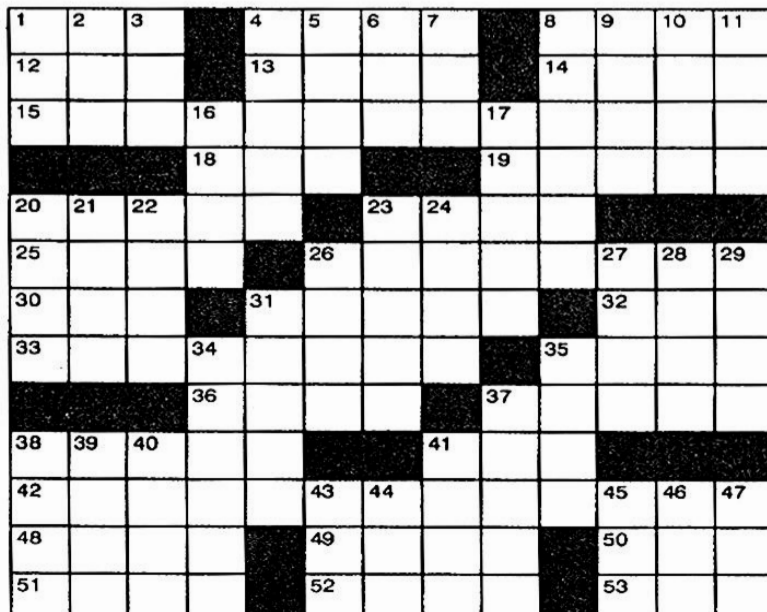
ACROSS

1. Sky altar
4. Ran away
8. Risk
12. Beret
13. Knowledge
14. See no ____
15. Kipling story collection
18. Colorado Indian
19. Carries on
20. Motif
23. Monthly due
25. Coarse file
26. Bronte novel
30. Anger
31. Stones
32. Fine, in space talk
33. "Moby Dick" author
35. Medicinal herb
36. Exclusively
37. Hard journeys
38. European wheat
41. Theater sign
42. London book, with "The"
48. Wings
49. Kind of curtain
50. The bounding main

DOWN

1. Take effect
2. College cheer
3. Mimic
4. "The Magic ____"
5. Without company
6. Work unit
7. Dolores ____ Rio
8. Argue
9. River of Britain
10. Hysteria
11. BPOE members
16. Leap
17. Marine birds
20. Shipshape
21. Tortoise racer
22. Donkey, in Dusseldorf
23. Assemblage
24. Being, in Spain
26. Harden
27. Ivy League school
28. Chess piece
29. Supplements
31. Mottled
34. Hit a tennis ball
35. In a line
37. Fashion
38. Large amount
39. Wan
40. Verve
41. Footwear
43. Suitable
44. Three: pref.
45. Doctrine
46. Zodiac lion
47. Water barrier

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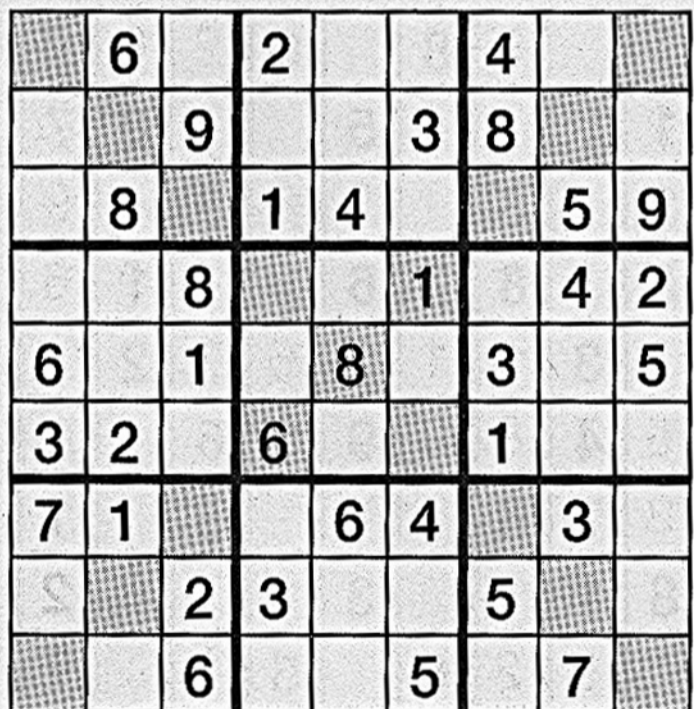
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SOLUTION

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
4	9	5	2	1	8	3	6	7
8	3	2	7	9	6	5	1	4
2	8	1	6	5	9	7	4	3
9	6	8	2	8	7	1	2	9
7	4	9	1	3	2	8	5	6
6	5	2	9	4	1	3	8	7
9	2	8	3	2	9	6	4	1
3	1	4	8	6	2	2	9	5

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
 A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
 In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

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Brazil's Petrobras confirms giant oil finds

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AFP) — Brazil's state-run Petrobras confirmed that oil fields recently discovered offshore contained 8.3 billion barrels of recoverable crude and gas -- and said the biggest field was being renamed "Lula."

That nomenclature happens to be the nickname of President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who steps down tomorrow after overseeing eight years of prosperity in Brazil capped by the oil discoveries.

Brazil hopes the fields will propel it into the top league of oil exporting nations, securing its drive to become the world's fifth-biggest economy in a few years' time. The Lula field was Brazil's biggest, a "supergiant" field with an estimated 6.5 billion barrels of recoverable oil and gas.

A Year End Checklist for Small Businesses

By Tony A.D. Green -- www.people-self-development.com

I'm no business expert, but personal experience, exposure to numerous business types, and much reading and research have taught me much about business. Today, I'm deviating from my usual emphasis of writing to the larger community to focusing in specifically on our business community in this article.

When you, as a business owner think of the end of the year, what do you think of? Most small business owners think of taxes. Taxes, we know are inevitable, however, this is an ideal time to stop and analyze, review and also plan ahead for the next year.

Some smart business owners have developed a business blueprint complete with identified metrics, which makes it easy to see how they've done throughout the year. A business blueprint acts like a map so you can see where you are and where you need to go while consistently aligning all areas of your business, including your external marketing as well as your internal opera-

tional systems. Business owners should use the end of the year as a trigger to analyze all areas of their business, and not just for doing inventory.

Permit me to suggest the following items to add to your checklist this year as you analyze and plan, they may help you gain a head start on next year 2011.

1. Express gratitude to your customers/friends....tell them Thanks!

If you haven't yet thanked your customers this year, you may want to send them a simple thank you note for being a loyal customer or client. You might also want to thank them by providing an irresistible offer, especially since they may still have holiday gifts they need to buy and your product or service may be the perfect gift for someone on their shopping list. You know, some people do buy after the rush! Or, you may want to offer some small gift as a token of your appreciation for their business during the past year.

2. Examine your financial books....get them in order.

Unless your fiscal year is some other time than at the beginning of the year, you will want to get all of your receipts ready for your accountant or CPA. Did you donate used business inventory or funds to some charity? If so, you want to collect those receipts and include them for review by your accountant. Our new tax laws allow for some deductions of your donations. Above all, get the financial help you need so you can make informed decisions and choices in planning for the new year. Examine your balance sheet, income statement and cash flow statements to see what you need to continue and what you need to change for next year.

3. Elect a strategic plan for your business goals....plan how you're going to move ahead.

At the end of the year you should have a pretty good idea where your business is. Hence, it's a good time to look at how you got there. Refer to your business plan or blueprint and check to see if you accomplished what you set out to accomplish during the past year.

Identify the reasons for the success or where you fell short. Make notes on your successes or identify the support you will need to reach the areas you fell short on for next year. You will definitely need this assessment in your business planning for the upcoming year. Remember to identify goals that are specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and have a time frame. The end of the year is an ideal time to assess where you are now, and where you want to go in the coming year; and plan out the specifics of how you're going to get there.

4. Explore smart(er) moves....check what's working and what's not.

Identify the contacts you've made over the year and review anything or anyone you need to follow up on -- be sure not to leave any business hanging. Reassess if your networking organizations are working for you. End of the year is a good time to determine if you're going to reinvest in the same organizations, or do business with the same people. You might just find that it's time to let go of some memberships or business contacts that are no longer working and explore new ones that will help you expand your business and significantly improve your bottom line.

5. Examine your branding....it may need an overhaul.

If your website is already two or more years old, you may want to refresh and/or update it. Likewise, if you use Ezines or Enewsletters and other marketing and branding materials these must be updated, refreshed, or possibly even completely rewritten. You need to be exact, explicit, and personable to attract your ideal clients. Make sure that your clients/customers know exactly who you work with and that your messages match your market. Erase any confusion or doubts about your business from the mind of your clients/customers.

6. Establish the best marketing systems.

It is ok to set some New Year's Resolutions. If you're

looking for a 24/7 sales person, don't make this one of your resolutions...to find such a person. They don't come in that 'size!' You may need to implement automatic lead generation systems and set up your marketing systems so they work on autopilot. Examine other internal systems and processes you need to implement next year to help leverage your time, energy and resources. Determine with what you find in your year end analysis that you will work smarter rather than harder. I learned this principle from Raymond Maduro, one of Aruba's foremost business entrepreneurs!

7. Embrace personal development for yourself next year.

Over the years I have experienced that whenever I invest in my own personal development, it pays off a hundred fold. This new year you should plan to grow your business by growing your own knowledge. Identify the training or resources you need to take your business to new levels next year whether it is a specific program, mastermind group, or mentor. Plan the same for your staff and employees, it is guaranteed to show up on your 2011 bottom line!

The old saying is true: a business that fails to plan, plans to fail. With the distraction of daily events, and the busyness of doing business, it's easy to put off business planning. Use this 7-point simple checklist to determine how you did last year, and to get a jump start on next year. Your business will do as well as you plan for it. These seven pointers may be just what you need to get things churning!

Let me recapitulate the seven alliterated points: 1. *Express* gratitude, 2. *Examine* your books, 3. *Elect* a strategic plan, 4. *Explore* smart moves, 5. *Examine* branding, 6. *Establish* marketing systems, 7. *Embrace* personal development. May God grant you a rich and satisfying 2011, include Him in your business planning, it makes good business sense!

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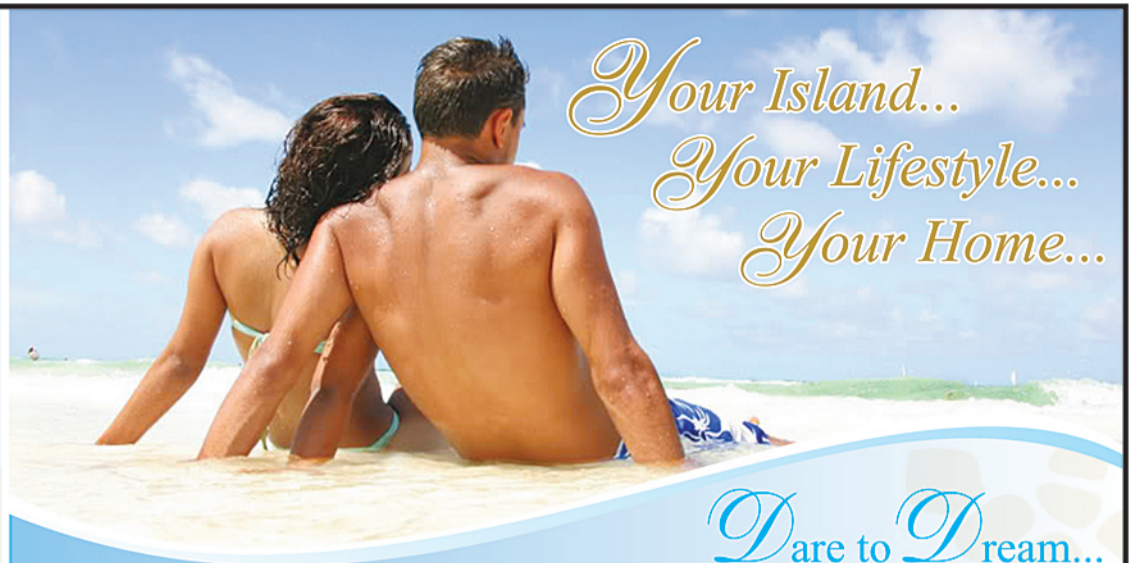
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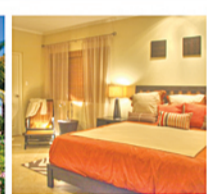
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Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest



Managers of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, report that sales are picking up nicely as the global economy begins to recover and those with a bit of disposal income are looking to invest in a sure thing. Gold Coast Directing Manager Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners are barely using the villas or town homes they purchase, but taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified

by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community; in this area, the value of properties has only increased over time. It is minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy run Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly

twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project; the scope and amenities. We talked to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who dreamed of their own home in Aruba will eventually be a community of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional pools decks, one of which has been open for a year, the other will be ready for the holidays 2010. They expect the clubhouse to be ready for the community with a workout room and spectacular facilities by the end of 2011. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the management association's rental service. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facilities such as those at Gold Coast, making it easy for some own-

ers to earn their mortgage payments or others to see an immediate return on their investment.

The design of the structures is open, airy and spacious, fully deploying the island environment, with the finest quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options for clients, so buyers can individualize their homes. An elegant and chic standard package is available, or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast managers have inaugurated a number of in-house services and are now negotiating with Interval International to provide a huge international pool for investors to tap for renters either short or long term. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination will also be available. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance serv-

ices also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, babysitting and catering services are also available for community members as well as airport pick-up and drop-off and pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can all be arranged through their home management department.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.





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Milano's unveils a new menu



Black Angus Filet Mignon



Rack of Lamb with Tomato almond salsa



Shrimp Cognac



Prosciutto with Mango Relish

Milano's, which opened in the South Beach Center in Palm Beach last spring, recently unveiled a new menu and look. The revamped Milano's Italian Bistro & Lounge offers chic décor and an equally chic menu featuring specialties of the chef based on gourmet Italian dishes but fused with the flavors of the Caribbean.

An attractive array of appetizers and entrees presented included Prosciutto with Mango Relish, Shrimp Cognac, Black Angus Filet Mignon and a Rack of Lamb encrusted with Tomato and Almond Salsa. This appealing display was accompanied by a sampling of

their special events menu which includes gourmet snacks to tempt the most discerning.

The holiday season is fast approaching, and the cozy surroundings of Milano's offers a very interesting alternative for small groups looking for a venue suited to their size. The bistro has also reworked their menu pricing to present a tab at the end of the evening that affirms patrons' satisfaction.

Gilbert, an award-winning chef, is in charge of the kitchen. His team just claimed the silver award at the October Chef/Student Culinary Com-



Passion Cheesecake

petition conducted by Aruba's EPI School. This was judged by celebrity chef Michael Deihl of the East Lake Country Club and President of the Atlanta Chapter of the American Culinary Federation. Gilbert brings his expert touch and passion to Milano's new menu, and the management is very enthusiastic about the change.

The restaurant is open for dinner from 5:30 to 11:00 p.m. nightly; the lounge stays open for late night socializing until 1:00 a.m. on weekdays and 3:00 a.m. on the weekends. It provides an ideal environment for those who enjoy good conversation without have to shout over loud music.

For more information and reservations call 568-7070.

By Rosalie Klein

Final preparations for this weekend's gala performance at Occidental Grand



The final rehearsals for the upcoming performances the New Year Dance Gala featuring vignettes from "The Nutcracker" and Stravinsky's "Firebird" performed by Kozlov Dance International have had Occidental Grand employees distracted for the last two days.

Leonid Kozlov, former

and selected to perform with Whitney Jensen of the Boston Ballet in the famous Varna annual festival.

Leonid last year celebrated his 30th anniversary of his defection to the west. He has staged "The Nutcracker" and "Firebird" in theaters around the world; his sumptuous costumes and sets were



principal dancer of the Bolshoi and New York City Ballet, with his wife, prima ballerina Adriana, yesterday afternoon welcomed guest performer Albert Davydov, a star with the New Jersey Ballet, who will play the Nutcracker/Prince in the beloved holiday ballet.

Davydov, who began his ballet training when he was eleven years old with the Kazan Choreographic School in Russia, launched his U.S. career while touring with the Tatar State Theater of Opera and Ballet in the Europe and the Americas; he was offered positions by a number of U.S. dance companies and in 2004 joined the N.J. Ballet. He was

created by the most sought after Russian designers.

There will be two performances in the ballroom of the Occidental Grand Resort; Saturday, January 1 at 9:00 PM and a Sunday matinee on January 2 beginning at 4:00 PM. Tickets are on sale for \$20 U.S. (35 Aruban florins) and may be purchased at the concierges' desk at the Occidental Hotel or at the Van Dorp Bookstores (Caya Milio Croes, Holiday Inn, Divi Resort). Groups can also order tickets by calling on Aruba, 593-6362. Tickets can be purchased at the door; cash or travelers' checks, credit cards are not accepted.

by Rosalie Klein

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Giants end 56-year title drought in haunted season

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Baseball saw pitching perfection aplenty and a title in San Francisco for the first time, but retirement, death and doping haunted the American pastime in 2010.

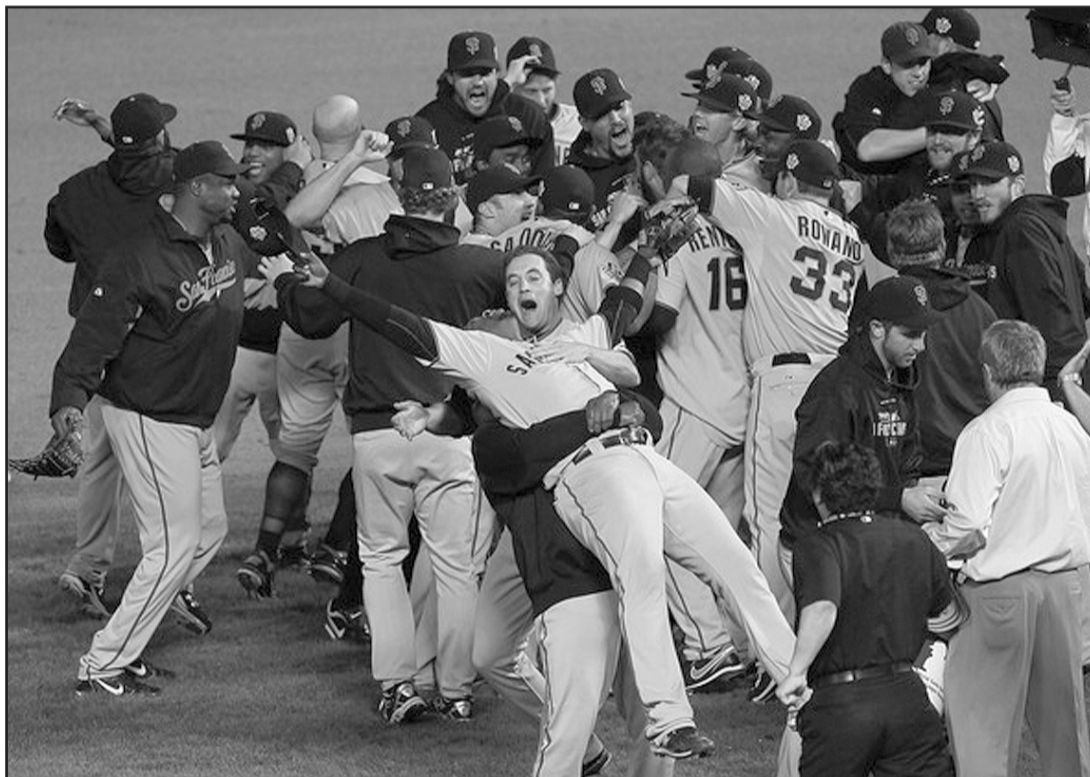
The San Francisco Giants, who had not won the World Series since 1954 when they were based in New York, defeated the Texas Rangers four games to one in the World Series, Major League Baseball's best-of-seven championship final.

Behind overwhelming pitching performances from Tim Lincecum, Matt Cain and Madison Bumgarner, the Giants brought San Francisco a title for the first time since the team arrived in 1958.

The Rangers, who had not won a playoff series in their half-century history, finally advanced to the World Series only three months after a group led by retired ex-Ranger legend Nolan Ryan took the club out of bankruptcy.

Philadelphia's Roy Halladay became only the second pitcher in major league history to throw a no-hitter in a playoff game, doing so in his playoff debut to power the Phillies over Cincinnati to begin a sweep.

Halladay followed only the fabled perfect game



thrown by Don Larsen of the New York Yankees against Brooklyn in the fifth game of the 1956 World Series, but his feat summed up a year of pitching masterpieces.

Halladay also hurled a perfect game at Florida in a regular season that saw a perfect game by Oakland's Dallas Braden and no-hitters by Colorado's Ubaldo Jimenez, Tampa Bay's Matt Garza and Edwin Jackson of the

Chicago White Sox.

Not since seven no-hitters were thrown in 1991 has Major League Baseball seen so many great pitching performances.

Hitters had their moments. St. Louis slugger Albert Pujols hit his 400th career home run while Yankees slugger Alex Rodriguez belted his 600th career homer in August.

But doping tainted the feat for "A-Rod", who last year admitted to using steroids when he played for Texas from 2001 through 2003.

Doping slapped the sport in January when retired slugger Mark McGwire, who refused to answer questions before a Congressional panel in 2005 about whether he took steroids, admitted he used performance-enhancing drugs for nearly a decade, including in 1998 when he hit 70 home runs to break the

then-one-season record of 61 by Roger Maris.

Two other stars learned their dates with doping destiny in 2011.

US baseball home run king Barry Bonds was given a trial date of March 21 on charges he committed perjury when telling a 2003 grand jury he never knowingly took performance-enhancing drugs.

Bonds set the all-time US career homer mark of 762 in

2007 but was linked to the BALCO scandal, his personal trainer going to jail.

Legendary pitcher Roger Clemens has a July 6 trial date on charges of obstruction of Congress, perjury and making false statements during testimony before Congress when he denied using performance-enhancing drugs in 2008.

Lanky southpaw pitcher Randy Johnson, Seattle slugger Ken Griffey Jr and Chicago Cubs manager Lou Piniella retired in 2010, a year in which baseball saw the death of legends on and off the field.

New York Yankees owner George Steinbrenner and Yankee Stadium announcer Bob Sheppard both died in July.

Steinbrenner passed away at 80 after an apparent heart attack. He had owned the Yankees for 37 1/2 years. Sheppard, who announced games from 1951-2007, was 99 when he died.

Sparky Anderson, a Hall of Fame manager who guided three World Series champions in a 26-year Major League Baseball career, died in November at 76 and Ron Santo, who had played 14 years for the Chicago Cubs, died at 70.

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Crosby's streak ends at 25 games

NEW YORK (AFP) – Sidney Crosby's point streak ended at 25 games after he failed to register a point in the Pittsburgh Penguins' 2-1 shootout loss to the New York Islanders.

Until he came up against the Islanders, Crosby had recorded a point in every Penguins game since November 3.

He produced 26 goals and 24 assists during that span. It marked the longest points streak in the National Hockey League since Quebec's Mats

Sundin had a 30-game streak during the 1992-93 regular season.

Crosby had also scored a goal in five straight games before being held off the scoresheet by New York.

Crosby doesn't usually have trouble scoring on the Islanders -- he has more career points (62 in 33 games) against New York than any other team in the league.

Crosby had a chance to score in the shootout but was stopped by Islanders goaltender Rick DiPietro.

Garnett hurt in Celtics loss

DETROIT, Michigan (AFP) – The Boston Celtics lost more than just an NBA game to the Detroit Pistons 104-92 as star forward Kevin Garnett left in the first quarter with a leg injury and did not return.

The 13-time all-star Garnett injured his right leg when

he jumped for a dunk then hung on the rim and dropped to fell to the floor. He limped off the court and went to the dressing room.

Boston coach Doc Rivers said the injury isn't serious but couldn't say when Garnett would be able to play again.

It was just the second loss for Boston in their last 17 games.

"I don't think it's bad so I'm not that concerned. He may miss some games," Celtics coach Doc Rivers said.

Paul Pierce scored a team-high 33 points for the Celtics.



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World Cup 2010 writes legacy in sport's vocabulary



PARIS, France (AFP) - In years to come, the impact of the 2010 World Cup may be gauged by the words that it introduced to the footballing lexicon.

'Vuvuzela', 'Jabulani' and 'tiki-taka' would have meant little to football fans at the dawn of the year, but at the end of the month-long extravaganza in South Africa they were on the tips of every tongue.

The ubiquitous noise of the vuvuzela - a plastic horn blown by fans that emitted a sound not dissimilar to a swarm of hornets - was the first indication that Africa's first World Cup would dance to a different rhythm.

The cacophony created by the trumpets was such that some broadcasters developed technology to block it out of their coverage, while the Adidas Jabulani - the official tournament ball - proved sim-

ilarly controversial.

Designed to be more perfectly spherical than any ball in history, it proved an irritant to goalkeepers and was derided as "horrible" by Spain's Iker Casillas and his Italian counterpart Gianluigi Buffon.

It was England's Robert Green who suffered the greatest embarrassment, however, letting a tame Clint Dempsey shot squirm through his grasp and into the net in his side's opening game, a 1-1 draw with the United States.

he tiki-taka style of slick passing football that swept Spain to their first ever World Cup triumph will provide a more enduring monument.

Success at the 2008 European Championship had made Spain one of the pre-tournament favourites, but they fell to a shock 1-0 defeat



against Switzerland in their first match.

The margins of victory may have been slender but Spain's modus operandi remained the same: patient inter-changes of passes, orchestrated by Barcelona playmaker Xavi, punctuated by rapier-like bursts into opposition territory.

The Netherlands barred Spain's path to glory, having disposed of Dunga's heavily backed but ultimately one-dimensional Brazil in the last eight.

A slow-burning final at Johannesburg's Soccer City Stadium was initially remark-



able for a succession of robust Dutch challenges.

Spain would not be cowed, however, and with four minutes of extra time remaining Andres Iniesta gathered Cesc Fabregas's pass before drilling an unerring drive into the bottom-left corner.

Vicente del Bosque's team were acclaimed as worthy winners, but there were also plaudits for Joachim Loew's effervescent young Germany, who thrashed old foes England 4-1 in the last 16 before overwhelming Diego Maradona's Argentina 4-0 in the quarter-finals.

German forward Thomas Mueller won the Golden Boot for top scorer, while Diego Forlan was crowned player of the tournament after firing Uruguay to the last four for the first time since 1970.

Italy and France both limped out in the group phase; France amid high farce after their players boycotted a training session in protest at the expulsion of Nicolas Anelka for clashing with coach Raymond Domenech.

Ghana, meanwhile, came within a whisker of becoming the first African team to reach the semi-finals, but Asamoah Gyan's missed penalty in the last minute of extra time against Uruguay enabled the South Americans to progress at their expense.

None of it came as any surprise to the tournament's true star, however.

Paul the Octopus earned international fame by correctly 'predicting' the outcome of eight consecutive games before passing away at a German aquarium in October.

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